

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01

OMB-01 EUR-10 SPC-01 DPW-01 AID-10 DRC-01 /077 W

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O R 271105Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7527

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT SEPTEMBER 19
25 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: MR 1 EXPERIENCED A 50 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST WEEK'S RELATIVELY MODEST LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY. THE REGION NORTH OF THE HIA VAN PASS REMAINED QUIET, BUT THERE WAS AN UP-SURGE IN ENEMY TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN QUANG NAM, QUANG TIN, AND WESTERN QUANG NGAI. THE HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN MR 2 WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY WITHIN THE FOUR NORTHERN PROVINCES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT WAS THE COMMUNIST DESTRUCTION OF A RANGER BASE IN PLEIKU, WHICH THE GVN HAS PROTESTED TO THE ICCS. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL IN MR 3, WHERE THERE WERE NO MAJOR ATTACKS AGAINST GVN POSITIONS AND MOST GROUND CONTACTS WERE THE RESULT OF ENEMY REACTION TO RVNAF PATROLS AND GROUND CLEARING OPERATIONS. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA DECLINED MODESTLY THIS WEEK FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S SHARP DECLINE, AS ALL PROVINCES EXCEPT DINH TUONG AND KIEN HOA REPORTED FEWER INCIDENTS. IN THE FORMER THE ENEMY OVERRAN FIVE OUTPOSTS WHILE IN THE LATTER GVN FORCES CONTINUED TO PRESS UNDER SUPPLIED VC/NVA UNITS. IN BOTH A PRIVATE MEETING WITH US/FPJMT CHIEF AND PUBLICLY, THE DRV CONTINUES TO LINK US MIAS AND DICS

WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, ESPECIALLY GVN RELEASE OF ITS REMAINING CIVILIAN DETAINEES. IN THE TPJMC, THE GVN DELEGATION IS CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT THE PRG MAY BE WILLING TO GIVE THE INFORMAL ASSURANCES RE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT RESUMPTION OF PRISONER EXCHANGES.

PART ONE FPJMT

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS CONTINUED TO LINK RESOLUTION OF THE MIA ISSUE WITH RELEASE OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DETAINEES BY THE GVN. IN A PRIVATE MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, THE CHIEF OF THE DRV DELEGATION TOLD OUR CHIEF THAT THE US CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD NOT EXPECT THE RETURN OF US DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC) REMAINS OR PROGRESS AT THE FPJMT MEETINGS WHILE THE GVN REFUSED TO :ARRY OUT FULLY ITS PROMISE TO RELEASE 5081 CIVILIAN DETAINEES. THE DRV DELEGATION CHIEF PROMISED THAT IF THE US INTERCEDED WITH THE GVN TO SECURE RELEASE OF ALL CIVILIAN DETAINEES, THEN THE DRV WOULD ALLOW THE US TO EXHUME AND REPATRIATE SOME OF THE DIC REMAINS IN NORTH VIETNAM. THE CHIEF OF THE US DELEGATION PROTESTED THE DRV LINKAGE OF THE MIA AND CIVILIAN DETAINEE

ISSUES.

2. THE DRV HAS ALSO PUBLICLY LINKED THE MIA AND CIVILIAN DETAINEE ISSUES. A DRV DELEGATION SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN AT A SEPTEMBER 22 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8B WAS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ESPECIALLY ARTICLE 8 (RELEASE OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DETAINEES).

3. IN FPJMT SESSIONS ON SEPTEMBER 25 AND 27 THE PRG AND DRV DELEGATIONS REFERRED TO SEN KENNEDY'S CRITICISM OF US MONETARY SUPPORT OF GVN POLICE AND PRISON SYSTEM AS SUPPORTING THEIR CONTENTION THAT US WAS VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENT.

PART II TWO PAJNYJS# MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN EITHER OF THE CHIEF'S OF DELEGATION SESSIONS SEPT 21 OR 25 OR IN ANY OF THE SUB-COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK. THE ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES REMAIN ROUGHLY THE SAME.

2. IN THE SEPTEMBER 25 SESSION, BG PHAN HOA HIEP, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE RVN DELEGATION, RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE RETURN OF PRISONERS AS THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO HIEP ALL HE REQUESTED FROM THE PRG DELEGATION WAS INFORMAL ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SITE OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGES AND THEN THE GVN WOULD WILLINGLY RESUME THE EXCHANGES IMMEDIATELY. THE PRG DELEGATION REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL. HIEP SAID HE ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE INFORMALLY DURING THE COFFEE BREAK AT WHICH TIME HE THOUGHT THE PRG DELEGATION WAS MORE INTERESTED. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL AT LEAST SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM HANOI ON THIS PROPOSAL.

3. GEN HIEP ALSO CHASTISED THE COMMUNISTS DURING THE SEPTEMBER 25 SESSION FOR ATTEMPTING TO CONNECT THE ISSUE OF THE RETURN OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES WITH THE ISSUE OF RESOLVING THE STATUS OF
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DEAD OR MISSING US PERSONNEL UNDER ARTICLE 8(B) OF THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO A SUBSEQUENT PRESS RELEASE BY THE GVN HIEP ACCUSED THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS OF TRYING TO CONNECT THESE TWO "UNRELATED ISSUES IN ORDER TO "SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE US IN PRESSURING THE GVN."

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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O R 271105Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7528

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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LIMDIS

PART III

COMMUNISTS REACT TO GVN PROTEST OF LE MINH ATTACKS
THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS REACTED WITH A TYPICAL SPED TO THE
GVN'S SEPT 26 PROTEST TO THE ICCS OVER COMMUNIST ATTACKS
ON OLE LE MINH (PLEI DJERENG) RANGER BASE. A STATEMENT BY THE
DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON THE 26TH DISMISSED GVN PRO-
TESTS AS A "DIVERSIONARY TRICK, " BUT DID NOT DENY THAT THE BASE
HAD BEEN ATTACKED. THE STATEMENT BY THE SO-CALLED PRG FOREIGN
MINISTRY, ALSO ON THE 26TH. ECHOED HAHLI'S LINE, BUT WAS MORE
EXPLICIT IN LINKING THESE ATTACKS TO ALLEGED GVN CEASE FIRE
VIOLATIONS AT TRUNG NGHIA, POLEI KRONG AND ELSEWHERE IN THE HIGH
LANDS.

DEFENUE OF "PRG" AUTHORITY CONTINUES

1. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO CONTINUED THEIR DEFENSE OF AIR-
FIELD CONSTRUCTION, ROADBUILDING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN AREAS
UNDER THEIR CONTROL IN SOUTH VIETN-NAM (THE US AND GVN FORMALLY
DENOUNCED THESE ACTIONS ON SEPT 10.) HANOI'S ARMY NEWS-
PAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN ON SEPTEMBER 21 CLAIMED THAT THE SPIRIT
AND THE LETTER OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS "STIPULATED " THAT
THERE EXISTED IN SOUTH VIET NAM TWO ADMINISTRATIONS TWO
ARMIES AND TWO CONTROLLED AREAS AND THAT THE PRGRSV HAS BEN-
COME THE MASTER OF THE GREATER PART OF THE SOUTHERN TERRITORY."
THE PAPER AVERRED THAT "THE BUILDING AND REPAIR OF AIRFIELDS AND
THE REPAIR OF ROADS" ARE AMONG THOSE MEASURES DESIGNED TO
"IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD" WHICH " NO ONE CAN PROHIBIT."

2. CONTINUING IN THIS VEIN, THE PARTY PAPER, NHAN DAN ALSO ON
SEPT 21 CHARGED THAT THE GVN, IN LAUNCHING ITS "VILE,
SLANDEROUS AND THREATENING CAMPAIGN, " WAS" PREPARING PUBLIC
OPINION WITH A VIEW TO EMBARKING ON DANGEROUS ADVENTURES."
NHAN DAN WENT ON TO ACCUSE THE GVN OF BEEFING UP ITS ARMED
FORCES; IMPLYING THAT THE COMMUNISTS' ACTIONS WERE NECESSARY TO
PROVIDE FOR THEIR DEFENSE.

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3. THE VIET CONG'S LIBERATION RADIO PICKED UP THE CHANT ON
SEPT 24, EMPHASIZING THE GVN'S ALLEGED AGGRESSIVE DE-
SIGNS ON COMMUNIYH CONTROLLED AREAS. THE SAME THEME WAS
SOUNDED BY THE VIET CONG'S "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE" IN HANOI,
NGUYEN VAN TIEN IN A SEPTEMBER 24 INTERVIEW WITH AGENCE
FRANCE PRESSE DURING WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN
SVN AS "INCREASINGLY CRITICAL." TIEN READ OFF THE USUAL LIST OF
US/GVN "VIOLATIONS" AND PROFESSED TO SEE HOSTILE INTENT BEHIND

SUCH DISPARATE EVENTS AS GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT TO VIET-NAM IN JULY, THE AUGUST VISIT TO DANANG BY FOUR US GENERAL OFFICERS, AND RECENT REMARKS BY SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND SCHLESINGER, DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS AND VARIOUS GVN SPOKESMEN. TIEN PLEDGED THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE WOULD "RESERVE TO ITSELF THE RIGHT TO USE ANY MEASURE TO DEFEND ITS TERRITORY, AIRSPACE AND TERRITORIAL WATERS."

PART IV MR 1

1. ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 119 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF SEVENTEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER LAST WEEK'S RELATIVELY LOW AVERAGE OF ELEVEN. GVN CASUALTIES: 67 KIA, 271 WIA. PRG/NVA LOSSES: 127 KIA, THREE RETURNEES.

2. QUANG TRI-THUA THIEN: MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST WEEK REMAINED LIGHT NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE CAUSED ONLY FORTY FIVE CASUALTIES, MINES ONLY FIFTEEN. TWO GVN OUTPOSTS WERE ABANDONED DURING ATTACKS BY FIRE BUT CASUALTIES IN EACH OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS WERE FEW. THE ENEMY HAS USED LOUDSPEAKERS THREE TIMES IN THUA THIEN: TWICE TO TELL FRIENDLY TROOPS THAT IF THEY DID NOT WITHDRAW FROM THEIR POSITIONS THEY WOULD BE ATTACKED, AND ONCE TO SUGGEST A MEETING TO NEGOTIATE A LOCAL CEASEFIRE. ARVN DID NOT RESPOND. THE RF OUTPOST ON BACH MA MOUNTAIN WAS RESUPPLIED ONCE DURING THE WEEK BY PORTERS. THERE WAS NO ENEMY REACTION.

3. QUANG NAM: CASUALTY FIGURES WERE RELATIVELY LOW IN QUANG NAM

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MRN: 1973SAIGON017102 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000004 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
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RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 OMB-01

EUR-10 SPC-01 DPW-01 AID-10 DRC-01 /077 W

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
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LIMDIS

PART VI-MR 3

1. MR 3 SAW VERY LOW LEVEL MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PAST WEEK WITH ONLY 82 INCIDENTS REPORTED, A DECREASE OF EIGHT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THERE WERE NO MAJOR ATTACKS AGAINST GVN POSITIONS AND MOST GROUND CONTACTS WERE THE RESULT OF ENEMY REACTION TO PATROLS AND CLEARING OPERATIONS. GVN CASUALTIES WERE 23 KIA AND 69 WIA, WITH MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS ACCOUNTING FOR MOST OF THE LATTER. COMMUNISTS SUFFERED 38 KIA, ONE CIA, AND FIVE SUSPECTS ARRESTED.

2. THE NIP AND TUCK CONTINUES OVER BRINGING SUPPLIES INTO PHUOC

LONG PROVINCE. HIGHWAY 14, THE ONLY LAND SUPPLY ROUTE FROM QUANG DUC IN MR 2 TO DUC PHONG, REMAINS OPEN BUT CHANCY: ON SEPTEMBER 24 A GAS TRUCK WAS OBLITERATED BY A B-40 ROCKET AND ON SEPTEMBER 25 A COMMERCIAL BUS WAS ATTACKED WITH ONE CIVILIAN KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. PROVINCE AUTHORITIES, WITH HELP OF VNAF, ARE STEPPING UP THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE MAIN AIRFIELD AT PHUOC BINH. MILITARY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT LAND AT PHUOC LONG IN LIMITED NUMBERS AND MILITARY SUPPLIES FREQUENTLY ARRIVE AT SONG BE BY CHINOOK, BUT THERE IS NO COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC.

3. ELEMENTS OF 274TH NVA REGIMENT KEPT UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ROUTE 23 IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE DURING THE PAST WEEK. THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 23 ENEMY FORCES DESTROYED A CULVERT AND ERECTED NINE ROADBLOCKS BETWEEN DAT DO AND XUYEN MOC. REPAIR AND CLEARING OPERATIONS REOPENED THE ROAD FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC THE SAME DAY. CONGEN COMMENT: LIKELY COMMUNIST OBJECTIVE IS TO ISOLATE AND BLOCKADE XUYEN MOC DISTRICT, EVENTUALLY CONTROL THE POPULATION, AND TRANSFORM THE AREA INTO A "LIBERATED" ZONE. END COMMENT.

4. ICCS: CONGEN HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT HUNGDEL HAS REDUCED ITS TWO-MAN PRESENCE IN MOST SUB-REGIONAL SITES TO ONE MAN.

PART VII-MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) REPORTED INCIDENTS DECLINED LAST
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WEEK FROM EARLY SEPTEMBER'S HIGHPOINT. THE MR 4 STAFF REPORTED A DAILY AVERAGE OF 27 ALLEGED VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 0600 SEPTEMBER 19 TO 0600 SEPTEMBER 26. DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK SUCH INCIDENTS AVERAGED 32 DAILY, AND FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5-12, 52 PER DAY. HOWEVER, CASUALTIES ROSE SOMEWHAT LAST WEEK, FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK, WITH APPROXIMATELY 130 RVNAF DEAD, 410 WOUNDED, AND 420 VC/NVA CLAIMED KILLED AND 18 CAPTURED. (CONGEN CAN THO COMMENT: SO FAR IN SEPTEMBER GVN CASUALTIES IN THE DELTA HAVE EXCEEDED THOSE OF THE OTHER THREE REGIONS COMBINED. ASSUMING THE SAME REPORTING CRITERIA WERE USED GVN FORCES IN MR 4 LOST 268 KIA FROM SEPT 5 TO 19 COMPARED TO 241 TOTAL KIA IN THE OTHER THREE CORPS. WHILE WE LACK COMPLETE FIGURES FOR THE OTHER REGIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29 TO SEPT 4 WE SUSPECT THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR THAT PERIOD. END COMMENT.)

(B) DINH TUONG, WHICH REPORTED 96 INCIDENTS LAST WEEK, IS ONCE AGAIN THE HOTTEST SPOT IN THE DELTA (COMMENT: SECTOR INCIDENT AND CASUALTY REPORTS ARE USUALLY MORE COMPLETE THAN THE HEAVILY EDITED REGION VERSIONS. END COMMENT). THE VC OVERRAN AT LEAST FIVE PROVINCIAL OUTPOSTS LAST WEEK, THREE OF WHICH WERE LATER RECOVERED BY GVN FORCES. THREE SHARP GROUND CLASHES IN GIAO DUC, SAM GIANG, AND CAI BE DISTRICTS COST THE

RF ELEVEN KILLED, 19 WOUNDED, AND 28 MISSING. NO INCIDENTS
WERE REPORTED ON ROUTE 4. SECTOR BELIEVES THE INCREASED VC
AGGRESSIVENESS IS DESIGNED TO FRUSTRATE ANY GVN DESIGNS
UPON THE VC STRONGHOLD OF TRI PHAP VILLAGE, KIEN TUONG.

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30 JUN 2005

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